

GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

MONTHLY ROUND-UP

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Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings for 2001

- **October 10-11**- Laredo, Texas

Recap of San Diego Meeting: July 25-26

Good Neighbor held its second of three meetings scheduled for 2001 in San Diego, California, from July 25-26 at the Horton Grand Hotel. It was very well attended by both Board members and the public and included an informative public comment session.

The meeting began with an official welcome from Rudy Fernandez of the Mayor of San Diego's office. Speakers included experts and senior officials from the following institutions: City of San Diego Technical Services Division; State of Baja California Department of Ecology; BECC; NADB; SCERP; U.S. EPA's border program; and an environmental consultant affiliated with SEMARNAT. Local officials including Assemblyman Juan Vargas and Congressman Bob Filner sent representatives, and the Director of the California Governor's Office for CA-MX Affairs attended. Other attendees included representatives from the non-profit and private sectors.

On the second day, the Board held a business meeting followed by an optional field trip in the afternoon that included tours of a Sony plant and San Antonio de los Buenos wastewater treatment plant in Tijuana..

One of the outcomes of the meeting was a letter from the Chair and the Board to the U.S. President and Congress requesting that the Board be involved in discussions about potential changes to BECC and NADB (*see next page for main text*). The Los Angeles Times published an article on the meeting and the letter.

Next Good Neighbor Laredo Meeting: October 10-11

The Board will hold its final meeting of 2001 in Laredo, Texas, on October 10-11. Planning committee members include Diana Borja, Irasema Coronado, Rafael Guerrero, John Klein, Linda Smith, and Darrin Swartz-Larson. Speakers will address two themes: transportation and rural issues. The draft agenda also calls for the Board to meet jointly with its counterpart Mexican advisory committee.

Chair to Meet with EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman

Chair Judith Espinosa and several Board members are scheduled to meet with Governor Christie Todd Whitman, Administrator of the U.S. EPA, on August 7th.

GNEB Letter to the President and Congress Requesting Input on BECC/NADB Discussions

The Board has sent a letter to the President and Congress requesting that it be included in discussions about potential changes in the roles of BECC and NADB. Main text of letter follows. Note that letter also includes an additional section with background on GNEB, BECC, and NADB:

July 26, 2001

The President, The Vice President, The Speaker of the House

Re: Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) and North American Development Bank (NADBank) Strategic Objectives

Dear Mr. President,

As your advisory board on border environmental and infrastructure issues, we request to be included in the current consultative process related to the future structure and direction of the BECC and NADBank.

It has come to our attention that your administration and that of Mexico's President Fox are now actively considering proposals as to both the form and substance of these border organizations in anticipation of the Binational Commission meeting on September 4 and the State visit on September 5.

We understand your interest in enhancing the performance of the organizations and in discussing substantive proposals with President Fox. For this reason, we recommend that you incorporate the following in your policy discussions:

- Ensure public participation by border community representatives in the consultative process related to any proposed restructuring, reorganization or refocusing of the BECC and NADBank.
- Maintain the integrity of the original mission, intent, and objectives of these organizations.

While we support improvements in project planning and financing along the border, significant infrastructural needs remain that may rely on the assistance and support of the BECC and NADBank. In addition, the public participation in border environmental and development projects is of great importance for the quality of life of the 12,000,000 residents in these communities.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the opportunity to review the proposals and assist you in achieving the above objectives.

Sincerely,

Judith M. Espinosa, Chair

EPA News

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Judith Ayres, a former EPA Regional Administrator for Region 9, has been confirmed as Assistant Administrator for the Office of International Activities.

Border Region News

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****Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.****

Grant to Address Diesel Emissions- EPA has awarded a \$25,000 grant to Northern Arizona University to address air emissions and fuel consumption from idling diesel trucks and buses in the Southwestern United States. The University will sponsor a workshop for owners and operators of diesel-powered vehicles and large truck stops. See www.epa.gov/otaq

IBWC- Former El Paso Mayor Carlos M. Ramirez has been confirmed as U.S. Section Commissioner of the IBWC. See www.ibwc.state.gov

Philanthropic Sector - International Community Foundation (ICF), based in San Diego, has announced that ICF President and former California State Senator, Lucy Killea, is leaving that position and that Richard Kiy will replace her. Dr. Killea will remain on the Board of the Fundacion Intenacional de la Comunidad in Tijuana, a sister foundation that ICF helped to establish earlier this year. See www.icfdn.org

Private Sector - Intel and EPA have announced they plan to continue their partnership under the Intel Project XL project. A series of monthly public meetings have been set up to take place between August and November in Chandler, AZ, south of Phoenix. For more information, contact mckaughan.coleen@epa.gov.

Publications - A new CEC report called "Taking Stock 1998" says that a quarter of the industrial pollution reported in North America in 1998 was released by electric utilities, about 77 percent of it hydrochloric and sulfuric acid emitted into the air. According to the report, the five jurisdictions of Ohio, Texas, Pennsylvania, Ontario and Indiana accounted for more than 30 percent of all on-and-off-site releases in North America in 1998. See www.cec.org

The current economic status of the Texas-Mexico border and the challenges the region faces are the subject of a new Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas publication called "The Border Economy." See www.dallasfed.org

State-to-State Coordination - Two memoranda of understanding were signed at the recent plenary session of the Arizona-Mexico Commission, one for water quality sampling in Sonora's binational watersheds and the other related to the Nogales Sonora Wastewater Pretreatment Program. Contacts: Mario Castaneda, ext. 4409, or Placido dos Santos, (520) 628-6744.

Border Issues Events Calendar

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*Notes: Event listings below have been drawn from other lists and may have changed. Please check a primary source for more details. **Events specific to border region are in bold.** Web sites may have to be re-entered.*

- Aug 8** EPA El Paso Border Office monthly forum, "Lead in Mexican Products," El Paso, TX.
- Aug 11-14 Western Governors Association Annual Meeting, Coeur d'Alene
- Aug 22-24** U.S. Mexico Border Summit sponsored by Univ. of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, TX
- Aug 27-28 9th International Joint Meeting on New Technologies in Water and Wastewater Treatment, Monterrey, N.L., Mexico. Contact smaac@infosel.com
- Aug 27-30 4th Inter-Regional Conference on Environment-Water: Competitive Uses and Conservation Strategies for Water and Natural Resources, Fortaleza, Brazil. See www.funarbe.org.br/ircew
- Aug 27-31 2001 ASCE Wetlands Engineering & River Restoration Conference, Reno, NV. See www.asce.org/conferences/wetlands2001
- Sept 4 U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission (BNC) meeting, Washington, D.C.
- Sept 5 President Fox visit to U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C.
- Sept 8-11 Children's Environmental Health II: Global Forum for Action Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Sept 12-13** BECC meeting, Mexico City.
- Sept 13** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
- Sept 16-18 Aspen Clean Energy Roundtable VIII, Aspen, CO. See www.MontreuxEnergy.com
- Sept 17-21 Advanced Water Pollution Control Seminar, Univ. of TX, Austin. See www.lifelong.engr.utexas.edu
- Sept 20-21 CEC SMOC and JPAC meetings, Tucson, AZ
- Sept 26-28** Ten (U.S.-Mexico Border) States Meeting - Monterrey, CA
- Oct 4-5** CEC National and Government Advisory Committee meetings (tentative)
- Oct 10** BECC meeting, Santa Fe, NM
- Oct 10-11** Good Neighbor Environmental Board meeting, Laredo, TX. See www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm
- Oct 11** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
- Oct 16 - 19** SCERP 2001 Annual Technical Conference: Sustainable Development in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region, Mexicali, B.C. See www.scerp.org
- Oct 20** Dia del Rio (River Day), organized by the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Coalition.
- Oct 25-26** Border Energy Forum, Tucson, AZ. See www.glo.state.tx.us/border
- Oct 29-31 Stream, Riparian, and Floodplain Restoration Workshop, Albuquerque, NM.
- Oct 29-31 2001 New Mexico Environmental Health Conference: Building Partnerships for Healthy Communities, Albuquerque, NM.. See www.nmehc.org
- Nov 8** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
- Nov 12-15 AWRA's Annual Water Resources Conference, Albuquerque, NM. Contact mike@awra.org
- Dec 5-6** BECC meeting, Ciudad Victoria
- Dec 11-13 Building Native Nations II Conference: Environment, Natural Resources, and Governance, Tucson, AZ. Sponsored by Udall Center.
- Dec 17-21 International Conference on Pesticide Use & Health, NIH, Bethesda, MD. Contact:

soeh@degnon.org.

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Feb 23-27 Watershed 2002, Fort Lauderdale, FL. See www.wef.org

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